

lie mind. Sensational stories are printed that afterward turn out to have been lies.

The policies of President Wilson and Secretary Bryan are deliberately distorted. The president is pictured as a scoundrel who is betraying his country into the hands of Great Britain.

All this was done to mould public opinion and to force the president into war with Mexico. I can see no reason for it unless it be that Hearst owns vast tracts of land in Mexico that would become much more valuable if we were forced into war with Mexico and sent an army of occupation into Mexico to police that unhappy land—to keep soldiers there to police the country while Hearst and others go on making money out of their Mexican land.

Or it may be that war gets the people so excited that they will spend their money every few minutes buying war extras.

Another illustration is the persistent campaign of the Tribune to boost President McCormick of the County Board and to discredit the members who won't obey McCormick's orders.

I don't know what the Tribune's game is in the queer politics it plays, but its tactics are those of the political boss who wants to use the public for his own selfish ends.

The best known example of how the Tribune will use power when it has it is found in the infamous midnight lease, whereby a Tribune-controlled school board changed the Tribune's lease of school land so that there will be no revaluation of that land during the entire term of the lease—99 years.

The Daily News occupies school land on the same basis, and benefitted financially by the same rotten deal of a newspaper-controlled school board.

When the Marshall Field store was grabbing valuable property belonging to the people of Chicago, in order

to extend the store under a street and get ready for a big subway station, none of the newspapers that get Field advertising dared make a fight to protect the rights of the people from the raid on their rights.

That illustrated the powerful influence of big advertisers when public rights are at stake.

I say that the newspapers that suppressed the news while that job was being railroaded through council betrayed the people of Chicago.

Another case in point is the deal the telephone trust has been trying to railroad through council giving the city's consent to the purchase by the trust of the Automatic telephone plant. The point to this is that if this consent is given it gives to the phone trust, without any consideration to the city, valuable property that now belongs to the city; for I believe the city now has the right to take over the Automatic.

This deal has been on for months, yet not a newspaper in Chicago has peeped in defense of the city's rights. And all the time the Chicago Telephone Company has been advertising heavily in the newspapers.

What induced the newspaper policy of silence? The public interest or the telephone advertising?

How much are the Chicago newspapers influenced in their news and editorial policy by the persistent advertising campaign of the other public service corporations?

Now let's get back to Post. How many advertisers are adopting the same policy Post adopted—of trying to influence the news and editorial policy of the newspapers to which he paid large sums of money for advertising?

Recently we have had an illustration of the point of view of advertisers who think as Post thought. George P. Bent, manufacturer of Crown pianos, didn't like some policy of the Tribune. So he cancelled his advertising contract and started in on a cam-